

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
PO Box 97
Morgantown, PA 19543

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER—OCTOBER 2016



Sunday School !

Sunday School is here again; and I hope that the kids are as happy to be back as I am. We began the season with a bit of a rowdy class and do apologize to the “older” students who shared the Fellowship Hall. Again this year our classes usually will spring from the Gospel reading of that Sunday and will offer interactive activities and a craft to accompany the lesson. The kids will also receive some activity sheets to take into church or home with them after the class. Classes will be held on the first and third Sunday of each month at 9:30.

All children are invited and encouraged to bring a friend.!

Kids’ Service, October 2nd at 9:30am

This service is specifically geared towards families with young children. Kid-friendly songs, props, and choreography will help kids stay engaged while worshipping and learning about the faith. A Sunday school activity will follow the service. Bring the kids (or grandkids)!

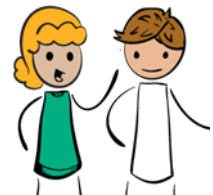
I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. —Philemon 1:6

Episcopalians are great at a lot of things—throwing a party, organizing a meeting, worshipping together despite theological differences (usually). But one thing we Episcopalians tend to not do terribly well is talking to people about our faith. But our reticence to talk about our faith stems from good intentions. We don't want to be pushy or preachy. We don't want people to feel uncomfortable. We don't want to come off as door-to-door salesmen trying to sell someone on our faith. And so we think it's safer to just not bring up faith in any of our conversations, unless it's with family or a few really close friends. And we're certainly justified in these concerns. You'd be pretty hard-pressed to find someone who hasn't had an encounter with an overzealous Christian evangelist that just couldn't seem to take "I'm not interested" for an answer. We don't want to come off as one of "those" people.

Yet there is a downside to our conscientious avoidance of faith talk. We're so often worried about making people uncomfortable that we forget there are a lot of people who would appreciate someone sharing their faith stories. Every single one of us came to the faith because someone was willing to introduce us to it. For most of us that person was a parent or maybe another close relative or friend. But there are people in our community were not introduced to any faith traditions while growing up or who have not yet found one that they feel comfortable with. And these people likely won't find one unless there are others who are willing to talk about faith.

It can be difficult to discuss something as personal as faith with others. But even if we were to put aside Christ's commandments to help spread the Gospel—If our faith is important to us, if we believe our faith has value, it's only right that we try to share it so that others may benefit from it as well. That doesn't mean we have to knock door-to-door asking people if they have found Jesus, or that we have to staunchly defend our faith against anyone who believes otherwise. But it may mean we need to be willing to talk about the fact that we are Episcopalian, and be willing to explain to others *why* we are Episcopalian. It may mean we have to be willing to tell someone who is struggling with finding a denomination about ours. As I mentioned in a recent sermon, the church universal is currently shrinking. But there are areas where it is actually growing. Yet it's hard for something to grow if there aren't people willing to help it grow.

If we have the chance to share our faith and we do it, the worst case scenario is probably that the person will look at us funny and tell us they're not interested in hearing us out. If we have the chance to share our faith and we don't do it, the worst case scenario may be that that person never comes to the faith. Are we willing to risk being uncomfortable, even over and over again, if it means that we may bring even one person to the faith? Let's start having these conversations.



Peace,

Megan

Continuing in the Apostle's Teachings: What the Experiences of the Church in Acts Can Teach Us Today.

This forum series will be held between services at 9:30am every Sunday until October 23 (Except October 2nd, when there will be a kids' service at 9:30). We will explore different events in the Acts of the Apostles and discuss the impact those events had on the early church, as well whether those events can shed some light on events and issues in the church today. Please bring your own bible if you are able.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Virginia Stalnaker
12 Kimberly Walsh
18 Sandy Hoffman

26 Elsa Zawada
28 Ken Gallagher
29 Suzanne Hoffman



Mark Your Calendar

Thurs., Oct. 6—Dinner Out
Tony Joe's Taproom—6:00pm
Wed., Oct. 19—Vestry Meeting—7:00pm
Tues., Oct. 25—Food Pantry Distribution

OCTOBER MOWING SCHEDLUE

2 Evans & Dennis Goodling
9 Janet McColgan
16 Gary & Terry McEwen
23 Bob & Peg Cook
30 Evans & Dennis Goodling



My family and I are so grateful for the support you've given Frank and me over these difficult years. Your prayers, cards, and visits meant so much to both of us and added a bit of light to a dark time. Thank you for such thoughtfulness. And thank you for your help with Frank's memorial service by guiding visitors, providing desserts and smoothly orchestrating the reception after the service. Your presence was a comfort to me and spoke volumes about us as a church family. It's really not possible to aptly express my gratitude to all of you; but please know that I'll always remember and appreciate the care and respect you showed Frank over the years. You are special people, and I thank you.

With gratefulness and appreciation,

Pat

October 2

8:30am
10:30am
Reader.....Evans Goodling
Intercessor.....Barbara Goodling
Chalice.....Jim Morgan/Stan Stalnaker
Ushers.....Jim & Arlene Hathaway
Nursery.....Liz Beebe
Refreshments.....Stalnaker
Healing.....Barbara Goodling
Altar.....Dori Stillman
Counters.....Bob & Peg Cook

October 9

8:30am
10:30am
Reader.....Amy Smith
Intercessor.....D.D. Krawlzik
Chalice.....Evans & Barbara Goodling
Ushers.....Ken & Helen Harclerode
Nursery.....Jen Cunningham
Refreshments.....Krawlzik
Healing.....Barbara Goodling
Altar.....Dori Stillman
Counters.....Janet McColgan/Jen Cunningham

October 16

8:30am
10:30am
Reader.....Barbara Goodling
Intercessor.....Amy Smith
Chalice.....Ken & Helen Harclerode
Ushers.....Evans & Barbara Goodling
Nursery.....Doris Gring
Refreshments.....Barbara McCord
Healing.....Barbara Goodling
Altar.....Jill Weise
Counters.....Stalnaker

October 23

8:30am
10:30am
Reader.....Jim Hathaway
Intercessor.....Arlene Hathaway
Chalice.....D.D. Krawlzik/Liz Beebe
Ushers.....Stan & Sally Stalnaker
Nursery.....Liz Beebe
Refreshments.....Stillman/Gring
Healing.....Barbara Goodling
Altar.....Jill Weise
Counters.....D.D. Krawlzik/Terry McEwen

October 30

8:30am
10:30am
Reader.....Ken Harclerode
Intercessor.....Helen Harclerode
Chalice.....Jim Morgan/Stan Stalnaker
Ushers.....Jim & Arlene Hathaway
Nursery.....Jen Cunningham
Refreshments.....Cook/McEwen
Healing.....Barbara Goodling
Altar.....Janet McColgan
Counters.....Goodlings

Sunday School will be the first and third Sunday of the month.

The kids are collecting the “Moo” caps from Turkey Hill. There will be a container in the Fellowship Hall.

